Utilisation of mineral resources by State Governments

1444. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments can utilise the available mineral resources according to their priority under the Mines and Minerals Act, 1957;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government intend to deprive the State Governments of their rights;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government are prepared to pay 75 percent Production Link Payment (PLP) in case the bidding process is implemented;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) State governments grant mineral concessions for all minerals except petroleum and natural gas under the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act). However, in case of the minerals specified in the First Schedule of the MMDR Act prior approval of the Central Government is required before grant of mineral concessions by the State governments.

(c) There is no such proposal with the Central Government at present.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There is no provision for any bidding process under the MMDR Act. (0 and

(g) Do not arise.

Products of SSI

†1445. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the products of small scale industries in the country remain way behind in comparison to the imported products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.